

SENATE No. 284

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James E. Timilty

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a skin cancer and sun safety education program in public schools.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
James E. Timilty	Bristol and Norfolk
William Smitty Pignatelli	4th Berkshire
Bruce E. Tarr	First Essex and Middlesex
Steven J. D'Amico	4th Bristol
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	26th Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S00375 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SKIN CANCER AND SUN SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority
of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official
2 Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “cancer,” in line 27, the following words: - “as to
3 the detection and prevention of skin cancer,”.

4 SECTION 2. Said section 1 of said chapter 71, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the
5 following paragraph: -

6 “The department of education is hereby directed in collaboration with the department of public health, to
7 establish a task force for the purpose of developing a model curriculum for grades kindergarten through
8 twelve in skin cancer prevention that shall include (a) the basic facts about skin cancer, including the
9 negative impact of human exposure to ultraviolet radiation obtained through sunburns and tanning, and (b)
10 a comprehensive set of strategies and behaviors to reduce the risk of contracting skin cancer. Said
11 curriculum shall include, but not be limited to, the skin cancer education and prevention policies and
12 materials provided by the “Sunwise Program”, so called, of the Environmental Protection Agency. A
13 copy of said curriculum shall be sent to the superintendent of schools for each school district in the

14 commonwealth. The department shall encourage school districts to implement said curriculum or a
15 variation thereof.